

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 AF-10

ARA-10 NEA-10 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-05

NSC-05 SS-15 /105 W

-----124129 040806Z /14

R 030938Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 208

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 27111

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG EAIR ICAO TH

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: VIETNAM OVERFLIGHTS

REF: MONTREAL 1777 (NOTAL)

1. IATA REGIONAL REP (DON WILLIS, CANADIAN), WHO ACCOMPANIED IATA D-C KURT HAMMARSKJOLD TO HANOI AND SAIGON OCT 28-29, TOLD EMBOFF NOV 3 THAT VIETNAMESE GAVE UNCONDITIONAL UNDERTAKING TO (1) PERMIT OVERFLIGHTS TO BEGIN ASAP AT FEE OF \$200-\$250 FOR 747'S, AND (2) OPEN ROUTE TO ALL IATA MEMBERS, INCLUDING PAN AMERICAN. WILLIS SAID IT WAS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER, THAT IATA HAS "MORAL COMMITMENT" TO HELP SRV SECURE GRANT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FOR NAVAIDS AND OTHER CIVIL AVIATION INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS. HE ADDED THAT NEXT MOVE WILL COME
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IN ICAO-SPONSORED MEETING WHICH SRV OFFICIALS "ARE CLEARLY ANXIOUS TO HAVE CONVENED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

2. WILLIS SAID HAMMARSKJOLD PARTY ARRIVED IN HANOI FROM HONG KONG MORNING OCT 28 ABOARD LEAR JET PRIVATELY OWNED BY PRESIDENT OF SINGAPORE AIRLINES. HE SAID AFTERNOON TALKS, HEADED BY PHUNG THE TAI, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION

DEPARTMENT, WERE BUSINESS-LIKE AND AMICABLE. HE ADDED THAT PHUNG ONCE AGAIN MADE CLEAR SRV WILLINGNESS TO PERMIT IATA MEMBER AIRCRAFT TO OVERFLY SOUTH VIETNAM SOUTH AND WEST OF CAMBODIA AS INTERIM MEASURE IF LPDR OFFICIALS PROLONG UNDULY AGREEMENT TO RE-OPEN AMBER ONE OVER LAOS AND SRV.

3. WILLIS SAID IATA PARTY HAD ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO FLY COMMERCIALY FROM HANOI TO BANGKOK VIA VIENTIANE, BUT THAT ON OCT 28 SRV CANCELLED ALL COMMERCIAL AIR SERVICES AT HANOI. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO "SPILLOVER" FROM RTG "BOYCOTT" ON FUEL SHIPMENTS TO VIENTIANE. WILLIS SAID THAT IN CIRCUMSTANCES, SINGAPORE LEAR JET ON MORNING OCT 29, FUELED IN HANOI, CARRIED PARTY TO TON SON NHUT IN SAIGON FOR FUELING AND THREE-HOUR LUNCH, THEN ON TO BANGKOK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, WHERE THAI AUTHORITIES IMPOUNDED AIRCRAFT, AND DETAINED PASSENGERS, FOR THREE HOURS FOR ENTERING THAILAND WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION. AIRCRAFT ALSO BROUGHT OUT ICAO TECHNICAL TEAM MEMBERS (REFTTEL) WHICH HAD BEEN STRANDED BY CANCELLATION OF COMMERCIAL SERVICES IN HANOI.

4. INTERESTING SIDELIGHT TO TALKS RELATED TO QUESTION OF HIJACKING OF AIRCRAFT. D-G PHUNG TOLD HAMMARSKJOLD THAT DURING MID-OCTOBER HIJACKING OF LUFTHANSA AIRCRAFT BY SUPPORTERS OF WEST GERMAN BADER-MEINHOF GANG, WEST GERMAN OFFICIAL TOLD HIM HIJACKERS MIGHT REQUEST PERMISSION TO LAND AT HANOI. PHUNG SAID HE TOLD GERMAN OFFICIAL THAT HIJACKERS WOULD NOT RPT NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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BE PERMITTED TO LAND AT HANOI AND WOULD BE SHOT IF THEY LANDED WITHOUT PERMISSION, ADDING THAT "ALL HIJACKERS SHOULD BE EXECUTED." THIS, OF COURSE, WAS PRIOR TO HIJACKING FOLLOWING DAY OF AIR VIETNAM DC-3.

5 . ICAO REP WHO PARTICIPATED IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF WOULD ADD ONLY THAT PREPARATION FOR NEXT MEETING ON AMBER ONE ISSUE "EITHER IN HANOI OR VIENTIANE IS NOW MATTER OF INTENSE NEGOTIATION."
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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Copy: SINGLE
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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